

Remarks

The undersigned's Remarks are preceded by related comments of the Examiner, presented in small bold-faced type.

Allowable Subject Matter

31. Claims 5-6, 11, 16-18, 20-22, 34-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The undersigned would like to thank the Examiner for his indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant respectfully traverses the grounds for rejection stated in the present office action. Nevertheless, in order to speed allowance of the present application, the applicant has amended claims to place them in condition for allowance as suggested by the Examiner in paragraph 31 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to continue prosecution of, inter alia, rejected claims in a separate application.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 5 is allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, claim 1 has now been re-written to incorporate the substance of Claim 5 and its intervening claims. The undersigned notes that the intervening limitation of "generating an annotation showing distance between a first entity in the first position and the first entity in the second position" has been further amended to refer to a "dimension" rather than a "distance." It is respectfully submitted that the allowability of claim 1 (i.e., former claim 5) in light of this change is supported by the Examiner's indication that claim 16, which recites the storing of "a dimension datum" is allowable.

Claims 6 through 9 depend directly or indirectly on allowable claim 1, and therefore, are also allowable.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 11 has been rewritten in accordance with the Examiner's indication. In particular, the limitations of claim 11 have been included in base claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 is now in position for allowance.

Claims 12 through 15, and claims 19 depend directly or indirectly on claim 10, and are allowable at least for the same reasons as stated for claim 10.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claim 16 has been rewritten in accordance with the Examiner's indication. In particular, claim 16 is re-written in independent form and the limitations of the original claim 16 have been included. Accordingly, claim 16 is now in position for allowance.

Claims 17 and 18 depend directly or indirectly on claim 16, and are allowable at least for the same reasons as stated for claim 16.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 20 through 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Claims 20 through 22 depend directly or indirectly on claim 10, which was re-written to be in allowable form. Accordingly, claims 20 through 22 are now in position for allowance.

Note that the subject matter of the added claim includes allowable subject matter.

Claim 37 has been amended to include the substance of allowable claim 11 and, accordingly, is now in position for allowance. Claim 38 depends on claim 37 and is likewise allowable.

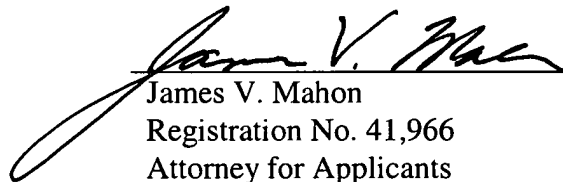
Conclusions

Claims 1, 6-10, 12-22, 30-32, 35-38 are now pending and believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that all pending claims be allowed.

Please apply any credits or excess charges to our deposit account number 50-0521.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Nov 30, 2004


James V. Mahon
Registration No. 41,966
Attorney for Applicants

CLIFFORD CHANCE US LLP
31 West 52nd Street
New York, New York 10019-6131
(212) 878-8073